

Michael loved others, not only in the abstract but also in countless interactions, large and small, with real people, marking his every day with acts of kindness and compassion.

An incomparable and loyal friend, he was giving, nurturing and empathetic, always putting others above himself. He lived with genuine humility and not a trace of egotism.

His irrepressible spirit will ever be a presence, and an inspiration, in the many lives fortunate enough to have been touched by his.

I join with Gail Shaffer, Jim Baldwin, Tom Matthews, Bill Brown, Barbara Chocky, Teresa Davenport Carter, Cheryl Parsons Reul, Maggie Quinn, Barbara Kozack, Sue DiDonato, Gene Labocetta, Ginny Kintz, Sam Messina and Michael's many other friends and colleagues in mourning his loss.

"Faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love." Michael, all who knew you loved you. Our lasting tribute to you is to carry on your goodness in our own lives and to others.

IN HONOR OF FATHER WILLIAM F.  
TEZIE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Father William F. Tezie, a caring and devoted man who has served as a pastor for more than 44 years. This is a particularly special time for Father Tezie as he celebrates his retirement, his 25th anniversary as pastor of St. John Nepomucene's Church, and his 70th birthday.

Father Tezie was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but shortly thereafter his family moved to Lakewood, Ohio and eventually to Rocky River. He attended St. Christopher Grade School and graduated from Rocky River High School. In 1948, Father Tezie entered Gregory Minor Seminary in Cincinnati and later graduated from St. Mary Major Seminary in Cleveland.

Since his ordination on May 19, 1956, Father Tezie has shared his commitment and faith with six different parishes throughout Ohio. Before he began his remarkable 25-year reign as pastor at St. John Nepomucene's Church in 1975, he provided nearly 20 wonderful years of dedicated service to the parishes at St. Richard's Church in North Olmsted, St. John's Church in Akron, St. Cyril and Methodius's Church in Lakewood, St. Mary's of the Falls Church in Olmsted Falls, and St. Francis Xavier's Church in Medina. In 1991, the Diocese of Cleveland presented the Award of Excellence as outstanding pastor to Father Tezie for his exemplary service to Catholic education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Father William J. Tezie on his retirement, his anniversary and his birthday. I, along with the St. John Nepomucene Parish, wish to thank this incredible man for the lifetime of faithful and loving service he has given.

ST. ANN OF THE DUNES ROMAN  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2000*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate St. Ann of the Dunes Roman Catholic Church, in Beverly Shores, Indiana, as it celebrated its 50th anniversary as a parish this past Sunday, September 10, 2000. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Father John B. Barasinski, pastor, on this joyous occasion.

Adjacent to the scenic Indiana Dunes National Park, St. Ann of the Dunes celebrated its half-century of history during a special mass last Sunday with Bishop Dale Melczek and the Reverend Charles Doyle, who presided over the church as its pastor for 30 of its 50 years.

From humble beginnings, St. Ann of the Dunes began as a nomadic church, taking up weekly residence wherever it could find space. Parishioners held services in houses, restaurants, and even a fire station, until 1954, when Helen Wood donated five acres that were once home to the Beverly Shores Golf Course. On this donated land, parishioners built a simple, rectangular church which served them well until 1971, when this building underwent extensive renovations and additions. St. Ann of the Dunes parish continues to be home to a close-knit congregation.

With many of its members descended from Lithuanians and Poles, evidence of Central European ethnic pride can be seen throughout the interior of the church. Numerous parishioners have used their artistic talents to beautify the facility. The altar and stained glass windows were hand-crafted and donated by church members. Parishioner and local artisan, Richard Kiebdaj, carved the candlesticks and baptismal font. He also created the main crucifix in the church, which is made from amber donated by various members of the parish.

Sharing its geography with the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, St. Ann of the Dunes' peaceful setting is inviting not only to the people of Beverly Shores and surrounding communities, but also to the visitors from the nearby state and national park campgrounds. During the summer months, parishioners and travelers come to celebrate mass outdoors in the beautiful and natural setting of the neighboring park amphitheater.

The generosity of the parishioners is typical of the care and dedication they show for the church and each other. The parishioners are committed to a tithing program, dedicating 10 percent of the weekly parish collection for local, national and international causes to assist people in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the parish family of St. Ann of the Dunes, under the current guidance of Father John B. Barasinski, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. All past and present parishioners and pastors should be proud of the numerous contributions they have made out of the love for their church and devotion to their community throughout the past 50 years.

HONORING PRIME MINISTER ATAL  
BIHARI VAJPAYEE OF INDIA

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 14, 2000*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India. As you know, the Prime Minister will be addressing a joint session of Congress to provide us with his personal perspective on the role India plays and will play in our new world order and economy.

U.S. foreign policy is increasingly focusing on the importance of India, and appropriately so. India is slated to out-populate China by 2035. It is an important strategic democracy in a volatile and strategically important geographic region—a region for which there are hopes of permanent peace.

Since India's inception 53 years ago as an independent country, it has maintained a constitution based on the same democratic principles that our Founding Fathers valued. The Indian Constitution safeguards all its people from all forms of discrimination on grounds of race, religion, creed or sex. It guarantees freedom of speech, expression and belief, assembly and association, migration, and acquisition of property. It maintains a government where five national parties and 14 prominent state parties can co-exist in a coalition government.

Furthermore, India reaffirmed its commitment to human rights when it signed the Warsaw Declaration in June of this year. This declaration emphasized the interdependence between peace, development, human rights and democracy. Signatories agreed on the right of every person to have equal protection under the law; freedom of opinion and expression; freedom of thought; equal access to education; freedom of peaceful assembly; access to a competent, independent and impartial judiciary and that all human rights—whether civil, cultural, economic political or social be promoted and protected.

Moreover, India is also making its mark as an economic entity. For the past 10 years, the U.S. information technology (IT) industry has made increasing investments in India. They have recognized that India is capable of providing an educated, ambitious workforce that can meet the needs of the world's technology-driven economy. This has allowed India to help cultivate the growth of its IT sector. India has successfully educated its workforce with IT skills and established successful partnerships with industry leaders. India is second only to the United States in the number of Microsoft-certified professionals.

India recognizes the important link between political freedom and economic development. As India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru said "We talk of freedom, but today political freedom does not take us very far unless there is economic freedom. Indeed, there is no such thing as freedom for a man who is starving or for a country that is poor." This symbiotic relationship between economic success and personal freedom is the foundation for a just, stable world order.

The prioritization of economic success and personal freedom is also reflected in our Indian-American population. There are over 1.5 million Indian-Americans, and their contributions to engineering and technology, art and